

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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ABF-01 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-02 INR-10
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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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DELIVER OOB TO HARRISON SHERWOOD FOR SIDNEY FRIEDLAND

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: ETEL, AORG, ITU, SP

SUBJECT: AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON WORKING METHODS OF ITU
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

REF: GENEVA 4702; STATE 80268

1. FOLLOWING ARE DEPT'S PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO PAPERS ON
ABOVE MEETING SUBMITTED UNDER DS-4 FROM EMBASSY 22 MARCH.
REFERENCE TO INDIVIDUAL PAPERS ARE AS FOLLOWS: E FOR
SPANISH SUMMARY, F FOR FRANCE, D FOR FRG, G FOR UNITED
KINGDOM.

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2. DEPT AGREES WITH MISSION GENEVA VIEW THAT PRELIMINARY
BUDGET SESSION (ONE WEEK BUDGET MEETING FOLLOWED
IMMEDIATELY BY TWO-WEEK COUNCIL SESSION) WELL WORTH
EXPLORING. LDC'S MAY OBJECT, ON BASIS BUDGET MEETING COULD
BECOME RICH MEN'S CLUB SINCE TRAVEL AND PER DIEM COSTS
FROM ITU BUDGET ONLY COVER COUNCILLORS THEMSELVES.
FOLLOWING REFUTATION CAN BE USED: (1) MOST COUNTRIES'

DELEGATIONS TO COUNCIL IN LAST FOUR YEARS HAVE INCLUDED AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE IN ADDITION TO COUNCILLOR ALTHOUGH CERTAIN LDC'S, INDIA AND ZAIRE, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE HAD ONLY A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE AT RECENT SESSIONS; (2) ADMINISTRATION COULD, IF IT WISHED, SEND COUNCILLOR HIMSELF TO BUDGET

MEETING.

3. FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL (E 1).

A. WE ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC REGARDING BIENNIAL PROGRAM (E 1.1), WHICH PRESUMABLY REFERS MAINLY TO BUDGET. IF, AS FRANCE ENVISAGES (F 2.1), BUDGET FOR SECOND YEAR IS EXPRESSED IN GROSS AMOUNTS AND IF, PER E 4.1, BUDGET WITHIN TORREMOLINOS LIMITS WERE PRESENTED SEPARATELY, SECOND-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTION WOULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN REPETITION OF TORREMOLINOS CEILING FIGURE.

B. TO EXTENT E 1.2 AND E 1.3 ENVISAGE CHANGES IN BASIC STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF COUNCIL AS SPECIFIED IN CONVENTION, US REP SHOULD OPPOSE DISCUSSION ON BASIS THIS ITEM OUTSIDE WG TERMS OF REFERENCE.

C. ENLARGEMENT OF STEERING COMMITTEE (E 1.4), ON THE OTHER HAND, ATTRACTS OUR INTEREST (ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL REALLY HAS A UNCLASSIFIED

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STEERING COMMITTEE OTHER THAN CHAIRMEN AND POSSIBLY VICE CHAIRMEN OF COUNCIL AND OF THE THREE COMMITTEES OR WHETHER SUMMARY REFERENCE IS TO A NEW STRUCTURE WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A STEERING COMMITTEE). WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE, HOWEVER, IS INCLUSION IN STEERING COMMITTEE OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT BY GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT DO NOT CHAIR COUNCIL, NAMELY US, USSR, AND POSSIBLY OTHER 30-UNIT CONTRIBUTORS (FRANCE, UK).

4. PREPARATION OF MEETINGS (E 2). WE WOULD BE DISPOSED TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THESE THREE ITEMS THOUGH WE DOUBT THEIR ADOPTION WOULD SERVE TO ACCELERATE COUNCIL SESSION APPRECIABLY. SIMILARLY, UNDER PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS (E 3), EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (E 3.2, G 9) WOULD BE DESIRABLE ON OWN MERITS. SAME GOES FOR SUGGESTION

(F 1.1) THAT SINGLE DOCUMENT ON EACH SUBJECT BE PREPARED BY GENERAL SECRETARIAT. WE AGREE WITH E 3.3, F 1.2, AND D 3 THAT ACTION AND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE DISTINGUISHED.

5. BUDGETARY (E 4). WE AGREE THAT SEPARATE DRAFT

BUDGET CONFORMING TO TORREMOLINOS CEILING (E 4.1) SHOULD BE PRESENTED, WITH PROPOSALS FOR EXPENDITURES BEYOND CEILING BEING SUBMITTED SEPARATELY FOR EXAMINATION ON OWN MERITS.

6. WE AGREE ON NECESSITY OF EARLY DISPATCH OF DOCUMENTS TO PERMIT STUDY BY ADMINISTRATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL SESSION (F 1.3, D 2, G 8).

7. WE SUPPORT UNITED KINGDOM PROPOSALS (G 6B, 7) FOR DIVERTING FULL COUNCIL ATTENTION AWAY FROM LISTED INCONSEQUENTIAL ITEMS.

8. WE SUPPORT IDEA (E 4.5, F 2.3) ON BUDGETARY BREAK-OUT
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OF EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC MEETINGS (CCI'S, ETC.), NOTING POSSIBLE RELATION WITH UK SUGGESTION (G 5).

9. QUARTERLY REPORT BY SECRETARY GENERAL ON ACTIVITIES OF UNION (E 2.3, F 2.3) MAY BE USEFUL IF IT REDUCES TIME COUNCIL CURRENTLY SPENDS ON REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORT.

10. IN FOREGOING COMMENTS, WE HAVE CONCENTRATED ON PROPOSALS ON WHICH GROUP CAN MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AS REGARDS LENGTH OF MEETINGS, HANDLING OF DOCUMENTS, BUDGET, ETC. A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS ARE OF A DIFFERENT TYPE, EXHORTING COUNCILLORS OR GENERAL SECRETARIAT TO MEND THEIR WAYS IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER; EXAMPLES ARE F 2.2 ON NOT SPENDING EXCESSIVE TIME DISCUSSING INSIGNIFICANT BUDGET ITEMS OR GETTING DOCUMENTATION TO COUNCILLORS WELL AHEAD OF SESSION (F 1.3, D 2, G 8). WHILE WE AGREE ON MANY OF THESE, THERE SEEMS TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS WG CAN DO ABOUT THEM, AND WG SHOULD FOCUS ITS ENERGIES IN MORE PRODUCTIVE AREAS.

11. FROM U.S. VIEWPOINT, PRIORITY ITEMS ARE THOSE COVERED IN PARA 2, 3C, 5, AND 8 OF THIS MESSAGE. VANCE

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